

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS**

**Hearing Date:** August 9, 2008

**Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations:** Psychological Assistant Renewals

**Sections Affected:** 1391.4, 1391.10, and 1391.12

**Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:**

The proposed amendment would delete the reference to a specific version of the American Psychological Association's (APA) Guidelines and Principles of Accreditation of Programs in Professional Psychology. This proposal would also change the current renewal date for psychological assistant registrations from on or before January 31 of each year to one year from the date of the initial issuance of the registration and annually thereafter.

**Factual Basis/Rationale**

Currently, section 1391.4 references the January 1, 1997 version of the American Psychological Association's (APA) Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation of Programs in Professional Psychology. This proposal would delete the reference to a specific version of this document thereby allowing the Board to apply the APA's most current standards thus eliminating the need to amend this section every time this document is updated by the APA.

Existing law requires all psychological assistant registrations be renewed annually in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. Currently, sections 1391.10 and 1391.12 require that all psychological assistant registrations be renewed, and an annual report filed, no later than January 31 of each year regardless of when the registration was issued. Therefore, any registrations issued after February 1 of each year would receive a registration for a period of less than one year. For example, if the Board issues a psychological assistant registration on December 1, 2008, the registration must be renewed no later than January 31, 2009. This has created concern for those psychological assistants who receive a registration, but are required to renew that registration within a short period of time.

There are currently approximately 1,400 psychological assistant registrations. Under current regulations, each of these registrations expire at the same time, thus causing a major increase in workload on Board staff during the months of January, February and March every year. This proposal would amend sections 1391.10 and 1391.12 to amend the renewal date for psychological assistant registrations from January 31 of each year to one year after the initial issuance of the registration and annually thereafter thereby equally distributing the psychological assistant renewal workload on staff equally throughout the year and also ensuring that all registrations are issued and effective for the same period of time.

**Underlying Data**

N/A

**Business Impact**

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

**Specific Technologies or Equipment**

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

**Consideration of Alternatives**

No reasonable alternative to the regulation would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.